

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender and receiving an indication at the server from the sender that the sender wishes to have the server send the message to the recipient in a manner special and individual to the ~~sender~~ recipient and intended for the recipient and not normally provided by the server,

transmitting, from the server to the recipient<sup>[[;]]</sup> the message<sup>[[,]]</sup> in the manner special and individual to the recipient and not normally followed by the server ~~manner~~, in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server<sup>[[;]]</sup> <sup>[[and]]</sup> an identification and address of the server and the identity of the sender,

receiving at the server from the recipient the message and the identity of the recipient and an indication of the receipt of the message by the recipient and the identification and address of the server and the identity of the sender, and

sending to the sender from the server, before any authentication of the message, a copy of the message and the information received by the server from the recipient

thereafter sending the message from the sender to the server before any authorization of the message by the server, and

processing at the server the information from the server to the sender, without any assistance from the recipient, to authenticate the message.

2. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the transmission from the server to the recipient is in <sup>[[a]]</sup> <sup>[[the]]</sup> ~~normal~~ manner ~~different from the special manner~~ normally followed by the server when the sender does not provide an indication to the server that the sender wishes the server to transmit the message in the special and individual manner to the recipient.

3. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein  
the indication received by the server from the recipient includes an identification  
under the control of the server, of the recipient and any transferring agents through whom the  
message has passed between the server and the recipient.

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4. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
an encrypted hash of the message is also provided by the server to the sender as a  
plurality of digits in a unique sequence and is sent by the server to the sender with the message  
after the indication is received by the server from the recipient but before the message is  
10 authenticated by the server.

5. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 3 wherein  
the transmission from the server to the recipient is in a normal manner different  
from the ~~special manner~~ special and individual to intended for the recipient and in a manner  
15 normally followed by the server when the sender does not provide an indication to the server that  
the sender wishes the server to transmit the message in the special and individual manner to the  
recipient and different from the manner normally followed by the server and wherein  
an encrypted hash of the message is provided by the server to the sender as a  
plurality of digits in a unique sequence and is sent by the server to the sender with the message  
20 after the indication is received by the server from the recipient.

6. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein  
an additional indication is provided to the server, with the message from the  
sender, in the special and individual manner ~~intended for~~ intended for [[to]] the recipient, that a high priority  
25 should be provided by the server to the sending of the message by the server to the recipient and  
wherein

the server provides the high priority in sending the message, in the manner special and individual to manner intended for the recipient and not normally followed by the recipient, to the recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

5           7.       (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein  
an additional indication is provided to the server in the manner special manner and individual intended for [[to]] the recipient and not normally followed by the recipient, with the message from the sender that a high priority should be provided by the server to the sending of the message, in the ~~special manner intended for~~ special and individual to the recipient and not  
10 normally followed by the server, the recipient, by the server to the recipient and wherein  
the server provides the high priority to the recipient in sending the message in the ~~special manner intended for the recipient~~ special and unique to the recipient[[,]] in accordance with the additional indication.

15           8.       (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein  
an additional indication is provided to the server with the message from the sender that the sending of the message by the server to the recipient in the ~~special manner intended for~~ special and unique to the recipient[[,]] should be recorded by the server and wherein  
the server records the sending of the message to the recipient , in the ~~special~~  
20 manner special and unique to ~~intended for~~ the recipient[[,]] by the server ~~to the recipient~~ in accordance with the additional indication.

              9.       (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein  
an additional indication is provided to the server with the message from the  
25 sender that the sending of the message by the server to the recipient in the ~~special manner intended for~~ special and unique to the recipient should be recorded by the server and wherein

the server records the sending of the message, in the ~~special manner intended for~~  
special and unique to the recipient, to the recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

10. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a  
5 recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

receiving at the server, with the message from the sender, an indication that the  
message is to be transmitted by the server in a ~~special manner intended for~~ special and individual  
to the recipient and different from [[the]] manner normally provided by the server in transmitting  
10 messages,

transmitting from the server to the recipient, in the ~~special manner intended for~~  
special and individual to the recipient and indicated by the sender to the server and different from  
the manner normally provided by the server in sending messages, the message and an  
identification and address of the server and an indication representing the identity of the sender,

15 receiving at the server from the recipient a handshaking and delivery history of  
the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient, ~~[[and]]~~

transmitting from the server to the sender, before any authentication of the  
message, the message and an encrypted hash of the message and the handshaking and delivery  
history of the message received by the server from the recipient, and

20 transmitting from the sender to the server the information previously received by  
the sender from the server when the server wishes to have the message authenticated.

11. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10, including the steps of:

25 the indication from the sender to the server being a first indication,

receiving at the server from the sender, with the message from the sender, an indication, in addition to the first indication<sup>[[,]]</sup> from the ~~server~~ sender of an additional function to be performed in the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient, and

providing the additional function in the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient in accordance with the additional indication provided by the sender to the server.

12. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 11<sup>[[,]]</sup> wherein the message and an encrypted hash of the message are sent by the server to the sender after the server receives from the recipient the message and the handshaking and the delivery history of the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient but before the authentication of the message and wherein

the server does not retain the message ~~[[or]]~~ <sup>[[and]]</sup> the encrypted hash after it sends the message and the encrypted hash to the sender and before the authentication of the message and wherein

the sender sends the message and the encrypted hash to the server for authentication of the message by the server after the server discards the message and the encrypted hash of the message.

13. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for a recording of the transmission of the message and wherein

the transmission of the message is recorded in accordance with the additional indication from the sender to the server.

14. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein  
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for an archiving of  
the message and

wherein the message is archived in accordance with the additional indication from  
5 the sender to the server.

15. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein  
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for the message to  
be sent by the server to the recipient by a special route and wherein

10 the message is sent by the special route from the server to the recipient in  
accordance with the additional indication from the sender to the server.

16. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein  
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for the message to  
15 be specially handled by the server in the transmission of the message from the server to the  
recipient and wherein

the message is specially handled by the server in the transmission of the message  
from the server to the recipient in accordance with the additional indication from the sender to  
the server.

20 17. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein  
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for a transmission  
of the message with a high priority from the server to the recipient and wherein

the message is transmitted from the server to the recipient with the high priority in  
25 accordance with the additional indication from the sender to the server.

18. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein  
the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after the  
server transmits to the sender the message, the encrypted hash of the message and the  
handshaking and delivery history of the message but before it authenticates the message,  
5 the handshaking and delivery history of the message having been provided by the  
recipient to the server before the server authenticates the message.

19. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein  
10 the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after it  
receives the message from the recipient and after it transmits the message and the encrypted hash  
of the message to the sender but before the server authenticates the message and wherein  
when the sender wishes to authenticate the message ~~and that~~ [[after]] the message  
[[was]] has been sent by the server to the recipient, the sender sends to the server the message  
15 and the encrypted hash of the message and wherein  
the server operates upon the message and the encrypted hash of the message from  
the sender to authenticate the message.

20. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein  
20 the server requests a delivery status notification from the recipient relating to the  
message when it transmits the message to the recipient and wherein  
the server receives the delivery status notification from [[the]] recipient when it  
receives the message from the recipient.

25 21. (Currently amended): In a method of transmitting a message through the internet  
to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,  
~~generating a hash constituting a synopsis of the message in coded form,~~  
~~encrypting the hash with a particular encryption code to generate an encrypted~~  
~~hash of the message,~~

5 receiving from the sender at the server the message and the encrypted hash and an indication with the message from the sender that the message is to be handled by the server in a ~~particular manner intended for~~ special and individual to the recipient and different from a normal handling of the message by the server for the recipient, and

handling the message at the server in the ~~particular~~ manner special and individual  
10 to manner intended for the recipient[[<sub>1</sub>]] in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server[[<sub>1</sub>]]

generating a hash constituting a synopsis of the message in coded form,  
encrypting the hash with a particular encryption code to generate an encrypted  
hash of the message,

15 thereafter transmitting to the server from the sender the information previously  
transmitted from the server to the sender, the transmission occurring before any authentication of  
the message and thereafter processing the information transmitted to the server from the sender  
to authenticate the message.

20 22. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 21, the step[[<sub>s</sub>]] of:

~~generating at the server, for an attachment to the message, an encrypted hash of~~  
~~the attachment, and~~

transmitting at the server ~~the attachment~~ message and the encrypted hash of the  
attachment message to the sender at the same time, and in the same manner, that the message ~~and~~  
25 ~~the encrypted hash of the message are~~ [[<sub>is</sub>]] transmitted at the server to the sender.

23. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 22 wherein  
the message is handled by the server in a normal manner, different from the  
~~particular manner special and individual manner intended for~~ [[to]] the recipient, when the  
indication is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein

5 the message is handled by the server in the ~~particular manner special and~~  
~~individual manner intended for~~ [[to]] the recipient when the indication is provided by the sender  
to the server with the message.

24. (Currently amended) In a method ~~[[asset]]~~ [[as set]] forth in claim 23 wherein  
10 the message is processed by the server in a first path when the indication of the  
manner special and individual to the recipient and different from a normal handling of the  
message by the server is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein

the message is processed by the server in a second path different from the first  
path when the indication of the manner special and individual to the recipient and different from  
15 the normal handling of the message by the server is provided by the sender to the server with the  
message.

25. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 21, the steps of:  
~~storing~~ providing at the server, after ~~[[the]]~~ passage of the message to the recipient  
20 but before the authentication of the message, the message, the encrypted hash of the message,  
the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the  
recipient, and

transmitting from the server to the sender~~[[,]]~~ for storage by the sender, before the  
authentication of the message, the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the  
25 sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient, and

thereafter discarding the message and the encrypted hash of the message at the server before the authentication of the message by the server.

26. (Currently amended): In a message as set forth in claim 22 wherein  
5 the message is transmitted by the server in a first path to the recipient before the authentication of the message, when the indication of the manner special and individual to the recipient is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein

the message is ~~processed~~ transmitted by the server to the sender in a second path different from the first path when the indication of the manner special and individual to the recipient is provided by the sender to the server with the message before the authentication of the message, and wherein

the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient are stored at the server after the passage of the message to the recipient, and wherein

15 the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient are thereafter transmitted by the server to the sender for storage by the sender before any authentication of the message and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message are thereafter discarded at the  
20 server before the authentication of the message and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message are ~~transported~~ thereafter transmitted from the sender to the server when it is desired to authenticate the message.

27. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a  
25 recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps of:

providing the message from the sender at the server,

providing at the server an encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

normally transmitting from the server to the recipient in a first route the message  
5 and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

providing an indication at the server from the sender that the message from the sender should be transmitted by the server to the recipient in a second route different from the first route,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient through the second route  
10 in accordance with the indication provided to the server from the sender,

providing at the recipient an indication of the status of the reception at the recipient of the transmittal from the server to the recipient of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and the address of the server, and

transmitting to the server from the recipient, in the individual one of the first and  
15 second routes indicated by the server to the recipient, the message and the identity and address of  
the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient and the status of the reception of the message at the recipient and the  
identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server before any authentication of the  
message.

20 28. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 27 wherein  
the encrypted hash of the message includes a hash of the message and an  
encryption of the hash and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender  
and the identity and address of the server and the identity and the address of the recipient and  
25 the status at the recipient of the reception of the message are transmitted by the server to the  
sender before any authentication of the message.

29. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 27 wherein  
the sender provides at the server ~~[[for]]~~ an additional indication of an additional  
function to be performed at the server and wherein  
the server performs the additional function in accordance with the additional  
5 indication from the sender.

30. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein  
the additional indication at the server provides for the message to be specially  
handled ~~for the recipient~~ in the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient and  
10 wherein  
the message is specially handled ~~for the recipient~~ in the transmission of the  
message from the server to the recipient in accordance with the additional indication at the  
server.

31. (Currently amended): A method ~~[[a]]~~s set forth in claim 28 wherein  
the sender provides at the server for an additional indication of an additional  
function to be performed at the server and wherein  
the additional function represented by the additional indication provides for the  
message to be specially handled ~~for the recipient~~ in the transmission of the message from the  
15 server through the second route to the recipient and wherein  
the message is specially handled ~~for the recipient~~ in the transmission of the  
message from the server through the second route to the recipient in accordance with the  
20 additional indication.

32. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a  
recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

~~providing at the server an encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and the address of the server,~~

normally transmitting, to the recipient, through a first path from the server, the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

5 receiving at the server from the sender an indication that the message should be sent by the server to the recipient through a second path different from the first path,

transmitting at the server to the recipient the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server through the second path different from the first path in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server,

10 receiving at the server from the recipient the message and an indication of the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient and an indication of the status of the reception of the message at the recipient,

providing at the server an encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and the address of the server, and

15 transmitting to the sender from the server the message and the encrypted hash of the message and the information received by the server from the recipient relating to the message before any authentication of the message at the server.

20 33. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 32 wherein the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after the server transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the sender but before the server authenticates the message and wherein

25 the sender thereafter sends the message and the encrypted hash to the server when the sender desires to have the message authenticated after the server has destroyed the message and the encrypted hash and wherein

the server produces hashes from the message and the encrypted hash and wherein  
the server authenticates the message by comparing the hashes to determine if they  
are identical.

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34. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 32 wherein  
the server receives additional information from the sender relating to additional  
functions to be performed by the server on the message in the transmission of the  
message from the server to the recipient before the authentication of the message

10 and wherein

the server performs the additional functions on the message, in accordance with  
the additional information received by the server from the sender, in the transmission of the  
message from the server to the recipient.

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35. (Previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 34 wherein  
the indication received by the server from the sender constitutes a first coding of  
the message from the sender and wherein

the additional information received by the server from the sender of the additional  
functions to be performed by the server constitutes a second coding, added to the first coding, of  
the message from the sender.

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36. (Previously amended) A method set forth in claim 33 wherein  
the server receives additional information from the sender relating to additional  
functions to be performed by the server on the message in the transmission of the message from  
the server to the recipient and wherein

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the server performs the additional functions on the message, in accordance with the additional information received by the server from the sender, in the transmission of the message from the server to the recipient and wherein

the indication received by the server from the sender constitutes a first coding of the message from the sender and wherein

the additional information received by the server from the sender of the additional function to be performed by the server constitutes a second coding, added to the first coding, of the message from the sender.

37. (Previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 36 wherein the sender transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the server when the sender wishes to have the message authenticated and wherein

the server operates upon the message, and the encrypted hash of the message, transmitted from the sender, to have the message authenticated.

38. (Previously added) A method as set forth in claim 37 wherein the server provides a first hash of the message and decrypts the encrypted hash to provide a second hash of the message and compares the first and second hashes to authenticate the message.

39. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein the message and the encrypted hash of the message are destroyed by the server after the message and the encrypted hash of the message are transmitted by the server to the sender ~~[[but]]~~ before the message is authenticated by the server.

40. (Previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 39 wherein  
the sender transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the  
server, before the authentication of the message, when the sender wishes to have the message  
authenticated and wherein

5 the server processes the message and the encrypted hash of the message to  
authenticate the message.

41. (Currently added) A method as set forth in claim 40 wherein  
the processing of the message and the encrypted hash of the message includes the  
10 steps of creating a [[first]] hash of the message and decrypting the encrypted hash to create a  
second hash and comparing the hashes to determine if they are identical.